FGDC Annual Spatial Data Report to OMB

Part A

GENERAL FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES REPORT (All Agencies)

1. Agency or Bureau:
   U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

2. Name of Contact for Report:
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3. Steering Committee Member:
   None

4. Coordination Group Participant(s):
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5. Subcommittee or Working Group Participation:
   Biological Data Working Group
   Marine Boundary Working Group

6. Strategy: Has your agency prepared a detailed strategy for integrating geographic information and spatial data activities into your business process - in coordination with the FGDC strategy, pursuant to OMB Circular A-16? If yes, briefly describe.

   The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not have a detailed strategy in place at this time. Service personnel are actively working with other Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureaus on the Enterprise GIS initiative and Geospatial Architecture, two efforts that will assist in this process. The Service is currently evaluating how GIS fits within the business process of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS), a first step towards creating a national strategy.

7. Compliance: How are your spatial data holdings compliant with FGDC Standards? Also, please list the FGDC Standards you are using or plan to use in your organization.

   The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has adopted FGDC Standards for its spatial data and metadata, namely the National Vegetation Classification Standard, the Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM), and the Biological Profile of the CSDGM. The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) data (see Part B) is a FGDC Standard data set, and the Service is actively updating and creating FGDC compliant metadata for other data layers, such as refuge boundaries and roads. The Service will continue to adopt and use FGDC standards whenever they are applicable.

8. Redundancy: Prior to collecting data, how does your agency ensure that the data are not already available?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintains a web site that points to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), as well as many current data sources. This web site is maintained, in part, to make it easier for staff to search and locate existing resources prior to collecting new data. A number of partnerships have been developed with other federal agencies, states and local governments, and non-government organizations for the purpose of coordinating geospatial activities, including data collection, with the goal of eliminating redundant efforts (see #14).

9. Collection: Do your agency contracts and grants involving data collection include costs for NSDI standards?

Yes. At this time, the only significant cost for a standard is metadata creation.

10. Clearinghouse: Is all the data and/or metadata that your agency is able to share with the public published on the NSDI Clearinghouse? If not, please cite barriers encountered.

Service data and metadata are currently available on the Internet. The Service is now in the process of updating and creating refuge boundary metadata files for publication on the NSDI and National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) Clearinghouses. This work is being accomplished through a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) NBII Program office. Insufficient staff, funding, and computing resources have been the primary barriers to establishing an NSDI node for any Service data other than the NWI.

11. E-Gov: How are you using geospatial data in your mission activities to provide better services? (Please list)

a. Several sets of endangered species critical habitat data are being served via an Interactive Map Server to test the usefulness of this type of delivery system to the public.

b. A number of migratory bird databases, including relevant geospatial data, are being served through the Bird Conservation Node in partnership with the USGS NBII Program. This includes an interactive map server also, which allows access to the data by non-GIS users.

c. An Interactive Map Server is being used to serve the NWI data set.

d. The Service's Environmental Conservation On-Line System (ECOS) provides access to a number of databases and geospatial data layers including endangered species and fish barrier data. The ECOS web site also includes an Interactive Map Server.

12. Geospatial One-Stop: How is your agency involved in the Geospatial One-Stop?

The NWI data set is currently listed as a data set in Geospatial One-Stop. The Service has also identified a representative to work on Geospatial One-Stop activities. This individual is also a member of the DOI Enterprise GIS team, which is

currently investigating ways to coordinate participation of DOI Bureaus in the Geospatial One-Stop effort. The Service is also investigating potential funding needs and sources for any work that will be involved in providing data to Geospatial One-Stop.

13. Enterprise Architecture: Is geospatial data a component of your enterprise architecture? Please provide a brief summary of how geospatial data fits into your enterprise architecture.

GIS is one of 12 inter-related components of the "Service Information and Technology Architecture (SITA)." The GIS Architecture component of SITA is defined in detail and includes a mission statement, introduction and background, standards, contracts, and a Service contact person. Service representatives are actively participating in the current DOI Enterprise Architecture effort, including the GIS Domain Data Architecture Team. While the focus of SITA is on bureau-unique issues, it will seamlessly mesh with, and fully support, the DOI Enterprise Architecture.

14. Partnerships: What efforts are being taken to coordinate data and build partnerships at the field level for data collection and standards development? Identify partnerships and data sharing activities with other federal agencies, state, local, and tribal governments and other entities.

A partial list of Service partnerships is provided below:

a. University of Minnesota Department of Forest Resources: to develop geospatial data and analysis tools for use in wildlife refuge management and planning activities for the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Missouri.
b. NatureServe: to fund, coordinate, and complete key tasks necessary for the development of a vegetation map for Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), AZ. All products will be based on implementation of the National Vegetation Classification System (NVCS) protocols.
c. The Conservation Fund: to work with the Service's National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in training public and private sector students together, thereby increasing the likelihood of future partnerships, data standardization, and joint resource decisions.
d. Channel Islands Regional GIS (CIRGIS) Collaborative: a spatial data sharing collaboration among government agencies, educational institutions, and other organizations working with data for the greater Channel Islands region.
e. Central Coast Joint Data Committee: a partnership of public and private agencies that agree to share spatial data about the 5-county region of the Central Coast of California, from San Mateo through Santa Cruz, San Benito and Monterey to San Luis Obispo County.
f. Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure: a partnership with the OMB/FGDC Infrastructure Team effort to devise a plan for the development, distribution, and long-term maintenance of important data themes in Montana.
g. Ducks Unlimited, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks, and the USDA Agricultural Statistics office in Fargo, North Dakota: to obtain Thematic Mapper data, collect ground truth data, and classify upland vegetation in the Prairie Pothole Region portions of North and South Dakota and three counties in northeastern Montana.

h. USGS Biological Resources Discipline: NBII Bird Conservation Node, to share migratory bird databases.

i. USGS: providing digital boundaries of national wildlife refuges for use in the National Atlas and National Map projects (www.nationalatlas.gov).

j. NOAA: Providing digital boundaries of national wildlife refuges for use in the Marine Managed Area program (www.mpa.gov).

k. North Carolina Natural Heritage program: to create a web -based threatened and endangered species spatial data entry program for statewide subscribers to the Natural Heritage Database.

l. New York State GIS Clearinghouse: data sharing effort to acquire recent high-resolution digital orthophotography for areas of interest in New York.

m. Dare and Washington Counties, NC: a data sharing agreement.

n. Gap Analysis Program (GAP): assist NWRS staff in using GAP and NBII products for refuge management and planning.

o. Florida Trail Association: to share services of a GIS specialist for data analysis and other GIS activities.

p. Pacific Basin Information Node (PBIN): NBII node to coordinate data development and fund projects that benefit many natural resource organizations.

q. Hawaii Geographic Information Coordinating Council: coordination of an I-Plan to encourage coordinated framework data layer development for Hawaii.

r. Metro University of Denver: cooperative GIS program to obtain imagery and data for Browns Park NWR, CO.

s. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG): acquisition of digital orthophoto quads (DOQ's) for San Diego County, CA.

t. Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG): acquisition of DOQ's for Riverside, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino Counties, CA.

u. SANDAG, Riverside County and California Department of Fish and Game (2003): developing a GIS tool and accounting system to track habitat losses and gains within HCP/NCCPs.

v. Coachella Valley Association of Governments (2002-2003): developing species occurrence and habitat models to implement HCP/NCCP.

w. San Bernardino County Museum (1999-2002): species occurrence and habitat mapping for San Bernardino Valley HCP/NCCP.

x. Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission: habitat surveys throughout the state. Service personnel process the Commission's rover files, create coverages, and distribute atlases and data sets.

y. NWI Program: over 60 partnerships with various entities including states, Environmental Protection Agency, Corps of Engineers, tribes, Regional coordination groups, cities, and counties.

z. Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium (MRLC): a partnership with multiple federal agencies to create an updated land cover data set for the United States.

15. Concerns or Lessons Learned: Are there areas or issues regarding spatial data that require attention or lessons learned that you would like to share with others? Please describe.

A major concern is the increasing number of non-funded mandates from sources outside the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the area of spatial data. While the overall intent of these mandates is inherently good (i.e., to reduce duplication of effort, improve data consistency, etc.), the sheer volume of directives and data calls far exceeds the Service's ability to adequately respond with existing resources.